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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:) Date: August 17, 2004
Michael H. Gilbert) Attorney Docket No.: F-120
Serial No.: 09/728,152) Confirmation No.: 4441
Filed: December 1, 2000) Group Art Unit: 2166
Title: **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR VERTICAL MESSAGING, BILLING
AND PAYMENT SERVICES**

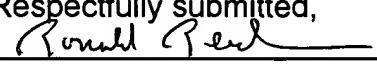
STATUS INQUIRY - NEW PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

More than forty-four (44) months have passed since the filing of the above-identified patent application on December 1, 2000. In response to a Status Inquiry mailed August 20, 2002, Applicant received a response from the United States Patent and Trademark office mailed September 11, 2002, indicating that it would be "15 months before this application will receive a first office action." No further Communication has been received from the Patent and Trademark Office indicating action on this application.

Therefore, applicant wishes to inquire as to the present status of the above-identified pending patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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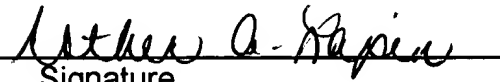
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August 17, 2004
Date